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ACLU HITS IVANCIE'S "PRAYER DAY"
BY ANDREW MacLEOD

A key test of whether Mayor Frank Ivancie's proposed "City Day of Prayer" violates separation of church and state is if less-popular events could be held at City Hall, a civil rights attorney said today.

David Landau, a Washington, D.C.,-based attorney and lobbyist for the American Civil Liberties Union, said another test would be whether public funds were used.

"You have to look at whether that hall would be open (under similar circumstances) to a gay rights group or a Ku Klux Klan group," Landau said at a news conference.

The ACLU has filed suit in Multnomah County Circuit Court to halt the observance, which is set for Thursday at City Hall. A court hearing is scheduled Wednesday on the action.

Ivancie aide Ted Johnson has said invitations to the public observance were printed with city-county equipment at city expense. An employee in the mayor's office was listed as the contact for more information.

The event was scheduled in conjunction with President Reagan's proclamation of May 5 as a "National Day of Prayer."

Ivancie has responded by suggesting the ACLU was being trite.

"If this is all the ACLU can find to complain about, it should be disbanded," he has said.

The separation of church and state, outlined in both the U.S. Constitution and Oregon Constitution, has been among the focal points of the ACLU.

Nationally, Landau said, the Reagan administration and the "New Right" have teamed up to turn back the clock on civil-liberty issues, renewing administration efforts that failed in 1980 and 1981.

"In 1983, we see attacks resurfacing with a new face," he said. "And in our view, the Reagan administration has launched a new attack on civil rights."

Civil-liberty issues such as school prayer, abortion and segregation are being chipped at by administration-backed proposals before Congress, he said.

Allowing the CIA to engage in domestic spying and the FBI to infiltrate domestic political groups are examples of the administration's assault on civil liberties, he said.

"This is returning us to the early days of the 1960s and 1970s when the FBI was engaged in political spying," he said.

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